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PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Shinichi HARA et al. ) : Examiner: D. Ben Esplin  
Application No.: 09/818,625 ✓ ) : Group Art Unit: 2851  
Filed: March 28, 2001 ) : Confirmation No.: 1693  
For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, GAS REPLACEMENT ) : October 9, 2003  
METHOD, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE :  
MANUFACTURING METHOD, SEMICONDUCTOR )  
MANUFACTURING FACTORY, AND EXPOSURE :  
APPARATUS MAINTENANCE METHOD )

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

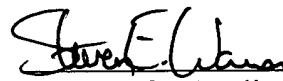
Sir:

To date, Applicants have not received a Notice of Publication and publication number for the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicants request that a Notice of Publication be issued to provide Applicant with a publication number and date of publication for this application.

Applicants believe that no fees should be incurred in connection with filing this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205 should any fees be associated therewith. A duplicate of this document is enclosed for this purpose.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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